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the first relationship descriptor and the first record descriptor.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the logical connection between the first record descriptor and the first relationship descriptor comprises a symbolic pointer from the first record descriptor to the first relationship descriptor.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first table is the parent table of the constraint and the second table is the dependent table of the constraint.

6. The system of claim 5, further including:

a second record descriptor for describing the records of the second table, the second record descriptor being a separate object within the data base system which can be modified individually; and

wherein the means for accessing the first relationship descriptor further comprises a logical connection between the second record descriptor and the first relationship descriptor.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the logical connection between the second record descriptor and the first relationship descriptor comprises a symbolic pointer from the second record descriptor to the first relationship descriptor.

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8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
an index descriptor for describing a primary key index of the first table; and

wherein the first relationship descriptor identifies the constraint's primary key by referencing the index descriptor.

9. The system of claim 8, where the first relationship descriptor references the index descriptor by a logical connection from the first relationship descriptor to the index descriptor.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the logical connection from the first relationship descriptor to the index descriptor comprises a symbolic pointer.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second relationship descriptors each include a delete rule having a value equal to any of "restrict," "set null," and "cascade," and wherein any relationship descriptor having a delete rule value of "restrict" precedes in the first and second chains any relationship descriptor having any other delete rule value.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein any relationship descriptor having a delete rule value of "set null" precedes in the first and second chains any relationship descriptor having a delete rule value of "cascade."

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